

R E M A R K S

In the Office Action dated April 27, 2004, the Examiner rejects all the pending claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,233,683 to Chan et al. The applicants' instant application, however, is a continuation of and claims priority (as indicated in applicants' transmittal dated August 17, 2001, and in the first paragraph of the application) to United States application No. 09/076,551, filed on May 12, 1998 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,317,832), which is based on 09/023,057 filed on February 12, 1998, entitled "Secure Multi-Application IC Card System Having Selective Loading and Deleting Capability." This '057 application (now U.S. Patent No. 6,575,372), in turn, claims priority (as indicated in the first paragraph of that application and on the face of that patent) to Great Britain patent application No. 9703591.9 filed on February 21, 1997 and entitled "Multiple Application Computer System." A copy of this Great Britain application is enclosed.

Moreover, applicants hereby claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119, 120, to Great Britain patent application No. 9703591.9 filed on February 21, 1997.

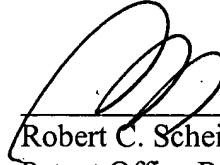
Applicants' present application, therefore, is entitled to a priority date (and presumptive invention date) of February 21, 1997, which is prior to the Chan et al. '683 patent's earliest possible 102(e) date of March 24, 1997. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that the '683 patent has been antedated and applicants therefore respectfully request that the '683 patent be removed as a 102(e) reference.

The Examiner further rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being incomplete for omitting essential elements of a system. Applicants, however, have amended claims 1-4 to make it clear that the claimed steps are for a method for securely loading or deleting an application onto or from an IC card.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the instant claims are presently in condition for allowance and that the Examiner proceed to issue a Notice of Allowance for the pending application.

Respectfully submitted,



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